Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PANAMA 04930 231658Z

73
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 SAB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /112 W
---------- 038346
R 231436Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1592
INFO GOV PANCANAL
USCINCSO
USUN NEW YORK 442

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PANAMA 4930

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PN, CU
SUBJ: GOP REESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH CUBA - STATEMENTS
BY GOP OFFICIALS

REF: A) PANAMA 4865 B) PANAMA 4872

1. DURING PRESS CONFERENCE EVENING AUGUST 20, FOREIGN MINISTER JUAN ANTONIO TACK AND MINISTER OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC POLICY NICOLAS BARLETTA (LATTER IS HEAD OF PANAMA'S DELEGATION TO HAVANA - SEE REF B) DISCUSSED GOP DECISION TO REESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH CUBA. ALTHOUGH FULL TEXT WAS REPORTED BY FBIS (210255Z AUG 74) SOME OF KEY POINTS ARE REPEATED OR SUMMARIZED HERE BECAUSE THEY REVEAL SOMETHING OF THE ATTITUDES AND VIEW OF THEMSELVES AND THE HEMISPHERE THAT PANAMANIAN LEADERS HOLD. EMBASSY'S ANALYSIS OF REASONS FOR GOP'S DECISION FOLLOWS IN SEPARATE MESSAGE.

2. TACK SAID THE "HISTORIC" DECISION TO RESUME DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CUBA AND REOPEN EMBASSIES IN RESPECTIVE CAPITALS WAS PART OF A "NEW INTERNATIONAL POLICY IN THIS HEMISPHERE" WHICH PANAMA'S REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT HAD PURSUED SINCE ITS INCEPTION.THIS POLICY MANIFESTED ITSELF IN "RESPECT
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PANAMA 04930 231658Z

FOR THE RIGHT OF FREE DETERMINATION OF PEOPLES, THE PRINCIPLES

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

OF SOVEREIGN EQUALITY OF STATES, IDEOLOGICAL PLURALISM AND
THE PROMOTION OF HEALTHY INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COOPERATION...IN KEEPING WITH SPIRIT OF LATIN AMERICAN UNITY
WHICH HAS STOICALLY OVERCOME THE GREAT SACRIFICES WHICH HISTORY
HAS IMPOSED UPON IT, WILL...RECOVER THE BASIC ROLE IT SHOULD
RIGHTFULLY PLAY IN THE EVOLUTION OF OUR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES."
HE WENT ON TO ASSERT THERE WAS NO VALID REASON TO CONINUE THE
ISOLATION OF CUBA...AND THAT PANAMA'S DECISION
WAS ANOTHER STEP TOWARD LATIN AMERICAN UNITY AND THE CREATION
OF CONDITIONS FAVORING JUST RELATIONS AMONG THE LARGE AND
SMALL NATIONS OF HEMISPHERE.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION OF WHY PANAMA ACTED UNILATERALLY
RATHER THAN WAIT UNTIL OTHER OAS MEMBERS JOINED HER IN ACTING,
TACK DESCRIBED AT SOME LENGTH PANAMA'S EFFORTS OVER THREE
YEARS TO PROMOTE RESTRUCTURING OF OAS, BUT THESE, HE SAID,
ENCOUNTERED FIRM OPPOSITION. PANAMA WOULD CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE
TO STRENGTHEN OAS AND TO ACHIEVE EQUALITY OF REPRESENTATION. HE
POINTED OUT THAT WITH BIRTH OF NEW DIAGLOGUE A SECOND STRUCTURE,
THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCES, CAME INTO BEING AS A MEANS
TO COMMUNICATE WITH U.S. THUS A DUALITY EXISTS. NATIONS MUST
CHOOSE BETWEEN OAS AND NEW DIALOGUE.

4. BARLETTA SPOKE BRIEFLY AFTER THE FOREIGN MINSTER DESCRIBING
DECISION TO REESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH CUBA AS "CONSCIOUS,
MATURE DECISION" AND "ABOVE ALL AN ACT OF SOVEREIGNTY AND
INDEPENDENCE." IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION BARLETTA SAID GOP
EXPECTED NO ECONOMIC REPRISALS FROM U S AND THAT PANAMA'S
ACTION SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED AS AGRESSION AGAINST ANYONE, BUT
RATHER A POSITIVE ACT.

5. TACK, RESPONDING TO QUESTION, SAID TORRIJOS HAD NOT YET
PERSONALLY MET PRIME MINISTER CASTRO, BUT THAT OPPORTUNE MOMENT
MIGHT NOW ARISE.

6. NEWSPAPER COVERAGE HAS BEEN PRINCIPALLY STRAIGHT REPORTAGE TO
DATE. GOP-CONTROLLED MORNING PAPERS MATUTINO AND CRITICA, WHILE
GIVING FRONT PAGE COVERAGE TO CUBA ANNOUNCEMENT AUGUST 21,
CONTAINED NO MENTION OF SUBJECT AUGUST 22. SEMI-INDEPENDENT
LA ESTRELLA, HOWEVER, HAD FRONT PAGE ARTICLE COVERING TACKS'S
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

ANNOUNCEMENT PLUS MAIN EDITORIAL ON SUBJECT AND AP WIRE STORY
BY GEORGE GEDDA DESCRIBING WASHINGTON REACTION. ESTRELLA'S
EDITORIAL DESCRIBED GOP DECISION AS "CORRECT AND OPPORTUNE."
TO DATE LOCAL COVERAGE HAS HAD NO CRITICISM OF U.S.;
HOWEVER, WE NOTE DISPATCH BY EFE'S PANAMA CORRESPONDENT ZOILO
MARTINEZ DE VEGA WAS RELEASED IN MADRID WHICH SAID AGREEMENT
HAD BEEN REACHED EARLY LAST WEEK BETWEEN PANAMA AND CUBA
TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC AND TRADE RELATIONS AND AUGUST 14 WAS

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

TO HAVE BEEN DATE OF SIGNING CEREMONY IN HAVANA, BUT FOR "UN-
KNOWN" REASONS PLANS WERE CHANGED 24 HOURS PRIOR TO ESTABLISHED
DATE AND TENSE "IMPASSE" FOLLOWED, "WHICH WAS BRIEFLY INTERPRETED
AS A REVOCATION OF THE MEASURE BY PANAMA." MARTINEZ CITED
INFORMAL OBSERVERS AS ATTRIBUTING THE HESITATION TO TWO
REASONS: "FIRST, TO GENERAL TORRIJOS' DESIRE TO INFORM FRIENDLY
GOVERNMENTS ON CONTINENT OF HIS DECISION, GIVING THEM AN OPPORT-
UNITY TO ACT JOINTLY; SECOND, DUE TO EXTREMELY HARSH PRESSURES
FROM THE U S STATE DEPARTMENT INCLUDING THREATS OF SUSPENDING
THE CURRENT BILATERAL U S-PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATIONS FOR A NEW
CANAL TREATY." (FOR TEXT SEE FBIS PANAMA 2211552Z AUG 74)
JORDEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PANAMA04930
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740233-1077
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740823/aaaaaswk.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) PANAMA 4865 B) PANAMA 4872
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <04 MAR 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOP REESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH CUBA - STATEMENTS BY GOP OFFICIALS
TAGS: PFOR, PN, CU, (TACK, JUAN ANTONIO), (BARLETTA, NICOLAS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005